Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (canceled)

16. (previously presented): The composition of claim 24, wherein said solution contains at least one million International units of gamma-IFN/ml, as measured by (i) the ability of γ-IFN to stimulate CD64 antigen expression in cultured enriched human monocytes, or (ii) the biological activity of the γ-IFN in solution and droplet form is determined by the ability of γ-IFN to stimulate HLA-DR antigen expression in cultured human monocytes.

17. (previously presented): The composition of claim 24, wherein said solution includes mannitol as a stabilizing agent.

18. (original): The composition of claim 17, wherein said mannitol is present in an amount between 5-15 mM.

19. (previously presented): The composition of claim 24, wherein said solution includes polysorbate as a dispersing agent.

20. (original): The composition of claim 19, wherein the polysorbate is present in an amount between 50-200 mg/liter weight percent.

21. (previously presented): The composition of claim 24, wherein the solution has a viscosity at room temperature of less that 2Cp.

22. (currently amended): A liquid-droplet aerosol composition for delivery to a patient's respiratory tract

(a) formed from an aqueous γ-IFN solution having a known, selected γ-IFN biological activity, and comprising a dispersing agent and a stabilizing agent in an amount effective to stabilize the γ-IFN upon aerosolization, wherein the stabilizing agent consists ~~consisting~~ of sugar, alcohol, amino acid, or a combination thereof, and wherein the composition does not include serum albumin, and

(b) wherein the aqueous droplets are characterized by

(a)' a narrow particle distribution such that at least 80% of the droplets have a size in a selected size range, wherein the selected size range is selected from the group consisting of (i) less than 1 micron, (ii) 1-3 microns, (iii) 3-5 microns, (iv) 5-10 microns, and (v) greater than 10 microns,

(b)' a γ-IFN biological activity substantially the same as that of the solution; and

(c)' a γ-IFN molecular size distribution substantially the same as that of the solution.

23. (previously presented): The composition of claim 22, wherein at least 95% of the droplets have a size in the selected size range.

24. (currently amended): A liquid-droplet aerosol composition for delivery to a patient's respiratory tract

(a) formed by placing an aqueous γ-IFN solution having a known, selected γ-IFN biological activity, and comprising a stabilizing agent in an amount effective to stabilize the γ-IFN upon aerosolization, and a dispersing agent, wherein the stabilizing agent is a sugar, alcohol, amino acid, or a combination thereof, and wherein the composition does not include serum albumin, against a plate having defined-sized openings, and forcing the solution through said openings, under conditions effective to form aqueous droplets, and wherein the aqueous droplets have ~~having~~

(a)' a narrow distribution of sizes that is less than 2 standard deviations from the volume mean diameter of the droplets~~, wherein the volume mean diameter is in a selected size range selected from the group consisting of (i) less than 1 micron, (ii) 1-3 microns, (iii) 3-5 microns, (iv) 5-10 microns, and (v) greater than 10 microns~~

(b)' a γ-IFN biological activity substantially the same as that of the solution, and

(c)' a γ-IFN molecular size distribution substantially the same as that of the solution~~; and~~

~~(b) characterized by an aerosol of aqueous droplets having (a)' a narrow distribution of sizes that is less than 2 standard deviations from the volume mean diameter of the droplets, wherein the volume mean diameter is in a selected size range selected from the group consisting of (i) less than 1 micron, (ii) 1-3 microns, (iii) 3-5 microns, (iv) 5-10 microns, (v) greater than 10 microns, (b)' a g-IFN biological activity substantially the same as that of the solution, and (c)' a g-IFN molecular size distribution substantially the same as that of the solution~~.